

The LaGrange Troup County Chamber looks forward to continuing to support efforts to alleviate challenges in workforce development and strengthen supply chain resiliency.

Sincerely,

CONNIE HENSLER,  
*President and CEO.*

MARCH 2, 2022.

Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK.

DEAR SENATOR WARNOCK: On behalf of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, I am excited to offer this letter in support of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act as well as the America COMPETES Act. As our economy and workforce continue to change, we believe that strengthening our ability to compete globally is key to our long-term success. The Chamber is actively engaged in supporting and enhancing our local community as a regional catalyst in economic growth, workforce development, community vibrancy, and inclusion.

We are hopeful that the passing of this bill means stronger funding and policy support for regional job growth; especially with support for semi-conductor manufacturing that further enables technology manufacturing and strengthens Georgia's automobile industry, the outcome of alleviating supply chain obstacles and the inclusion of historic investments in commercial development and science and technology. Further, strengthening the designated innovation hub between Columbus and Opelika remains an important focus and we'd look forward to the availability of funding to support research and development and commercialization in this arena.

Lastly, as we tackle the challenge of building a world class workforce in a tough environment, support via workforce development programs and funding is imperative.

Please accept our support for SB 1260, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. We look forward to this advancing and to continuing to build a strong Columbus, a strong Georgia and a strong nation. Thanks for your continued partnership.

Very respectfully,

JERALD MITCHELL,  
*President and CEO.*

JUNE 16, 2022.

Hon. Rev. RAPHAEL WARNOCK,  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR REVEREND WARNOCK: As Director of the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP), I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts to enhance Georgia's innovation and manufacturing sectors and work to strengthen U.S. competitiveness. Each year, GaMEP assists more than 1,000 small and medium-sized manufacturers across Georgia through onsite implementation, training and learning opportunities, connections to partners, and other resources. I hope you can further support the success of Georgia's manufacturing sector in your important role as Senate conferee to the bicameral conference for the United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA, S. 1260) and the America COMPETES Act of 2022 (COMPETES Act, H.R. 4521).

These important bills under negotiation have the potential to transform the U.S. economy by spurring new innovations in emerging technologies, jumpstarting our domestic semiconductor production capabilities, and dramatically expanding and solidifying the resiliency of the U.S. manufacturing base. I strongly encourage the inclusion in the final conference agreement the proposed increase of authorized funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Part-

nership (MEP) program and the establishment of a National Manufacturing Advisory Council as outlined in both the Senate USJCA and the House COMPETES Act. The bills also include important provisions to create new supply chain resiliency programs to identify, prepare for, and respond to threats to the U.S. supply chain. Looking toward development of future and emerging industries, manufacturers will also have an important role in furthering Georgia's economic development through the proposed Department of Commerce Regional Technology Hubs program. Without actual funding behind these tremendously important policy proposals, these activities may never advance. As such, I encourage Congress to include appropriated funding to begin these efforts.

GaMEP is proud to promote the success of the manufacturing industry within Georgia and support our manufacturers to be globally competitive. The competitiveness legislation under negotiation will propel our efforts even further. I urge Congress to come to a final agreement, which includes these important manufacturing and supply chain provisions, and swiftly enact this crucial legislation. I want to reiterate my appreciation for your work to support the manufacturing and innovation industries in Georgia and I would be happy to answer any questions you or your office may have.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY D. ISRAEL,  
*Director, Georgia Institute of  
Technology—Georgia Manufacturing  
Extension Partnership.*

#### TRIBUTE TO KAREN FISHER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Karen Fisher for her decades of leadership toward innovation and systematic change to improve the health of Americans. Karen may be retiring from a momentous health policy career, but the Nation will long feel the positive impact of her work.

From 2011 to 2016, the Senate Finance Committee was fortunate to benefit from Karen's expertise on the Medicare program and other key health policy issues. Serving as senior health counsel, Karen led the committee's work in 2015 to permanently repeal the outdated and flawed sustainable growth rate—SGR—formula previously used to determine Medicare physician payments and to replace it with a new payment system that advances value-based care for the millions who rely on the Medicare program as a lifeline.

In addition to her historic role in permanently retiring the SGR, Karen oversaw legislative activities related to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation—CMMI—and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute—PCORI—as she uplifted the transformative effect alternative payment models could have in driving greater commitments to quality and value in healthcare. She also served—and continues to serve—as a mentor to early-career staff on the Committee and across Capitol Hill, offering professional guidance and networking opportunities for the next generation of female leaders.

At the Association of American Medical Colleges—AAMC—Karen has con-

tinued her commitment to improve healthcare through public policy. Throughout her nearly 6 years as chief public policy officer, the AAMC has been an important voice on the need to expand access to healthcare nationwide by strengthening coverage through both the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid program and by addressing shortages of physicians and other health professionals.

Her more than 25 years of experience also have been an essential asset during the COVID pandemic, as she liaised between Federal policymakers and the academic medicine community to support the heroic efforts of the country's health professionals and scientists in treating patients, expanding access to telehealth, developing and administering COVID tests, advancing research on new countermeasures, developing and deploying vaccines, and enhancing health equity interventions.

I know that I speak for health policy professionals nationwide as I express my gratitude for Karen's dedication, talent, mentorship, leadership, and persistence in public service and in betterment of the Nation's health.

Thank you, Karen. I am wishing you and your family all the best for a very well-deserved retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO ACKLEY PADILLA

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to proudly recognize the outstanding public service of Ackley Padilla, my brother, who is retiring after nearly two decades of helping to lead the city of Los Angeles.

Ackley is a proud son of Pacoima, CA—and I know that Pacoima takes incredible pride in him. Ackley, my sister Julie, and I all learned to value public service from our parents, Santos and Lupe Padilla. Ackley made his career serving the people of the San Fernando Valley while working for a number of local elected officials.

Ackley worked for the first Latino and the first Latina presidents of the Los Angeles City Council. And, yes, that means that I was once his boss. For the past 9 years, he has worked for council president Nury Martinez. As her chief of staff, he has been crucial to Los Angeles's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including getting testing and vaccination sites up and running, as well as food distribution sites and other assistance for families in need.

In addition to his public service, Ackley is a passionate fan of the Angels and the Clippers—and known hater of the Lakers and the Dodgers. He clearly followed his father instead of his brother on those decisions. Ackley is a proud dad to three wonderful girls—Kaylyn, Kathryn and Khloey—and a proud handyman. He has come to love his minivan, "Pony Boy," and will surely drive into many adventures in the years ahead.

The people of Pacoima, the San Fernando Valley, and all of Los Angeles have benefited from Ackley's public